

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **Joint Broward Water Resources Task Force and Technical Team**

Friday, November 6, 2009, 11:00 AM

Broward County Government Center West  
1 N. University Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Hearing Room  
Plantation, Florida 33324

#### **Summary:**

The meeting began at 11:12 A.M. Chair Estenoz called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken (see attendance below). The Chair asked for approval of the October minutes which were approved. Chair Estenoz gave opening remarks, thanked Commissioner Jacobs for the recently held Climate Summit, and recognized Broward County's project for reclaimed water to Coconut Creek which was voted as project of year by the Broward chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Ms. Estenoz then talked about the meeting objectives for today and mentioned that the time the group had together was getting short and it was time to start preparing recommendations. She thanked the Technical Team for all their hard work to date and discussed the type of recommendations the Task Force may choose to make. Deputy Mayor Rosen requested that the next meeting be dedicated strictly to the recommendations. The Chair said she felt that it was the Task Force's job to make serious recommendations. There was some discussion about the future of the Task Force and how it should proceed beyond its scheduled termination date and a short discussion to reacquaint members on how the Task Force came about. Chair Estenoz then asked the Chair of the Technical Team, Albert Perez, to give the Technical Team report. Mr. Perez indicated the Tech Team has been focusing on opportunities for regionalization and has prioritized projects based upon criteria which they have previously shared with the Task Force. Mr. Perez indicated that the Technical Team would be providing a final report to the Task Force in the near future. Chair Estenoz then recognized Jose Lopez as the ASCE Government Engineer of the Year, and called for the first presentation of the day, which was an update on the C-51 Phase 2A Study.

Albert Carbon, Director of City of Fort Lauderdale Utilities presented a Powerpoint presentation on the Phase 2A Feasibility Study for the C-51 Reservoir Project, providing an overview and discussion of results. He discussed possible routes for moving water through the project and for reducing stormwater flows to the Lake Worth Lagoon. He noted that a draft report for the study has been completed and is under review. Task 1 addresses demand projections and Mr. Carbon indicated that updated demand projections have gone down significantly from 2007 estimates. He presented the revised demands in terms of a range which included consideration or not for the effect of proceeding with Floridan projects. He indicated that the C-51 project could meet 81%-100% of the water needs to 2025-2030 for the Palm Beach and Broward 2-county area. He talked about multiple pathways that the project could be progressed, either as an alternative water supply project or a water resource development project, the choice of which would influence permitting and operation issues. Mr. Carbon mentioned that Task 2 of the study considered the routes of water conveyance considered, one being through the Lake Worth Drainage District and one through the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA), which would require further water quantity and water quality analysis. He discussed some of the improvements needed for each option and

estimated costs. The Chair asked if the EAA option would require additional infrastructure and discussion then ensued regarding water quality issues. Task 3 included evaluation of geological formations and how the reservoir would be constructed. The preliminary results indicate that the formation that is most favorable to the reservoir extends further west, although the area that has been considered so far for the reservoir may not be as non-permeable as once thought, and Mr. Carbon then discussed briefly how this would impact future design. Discussing Task 4 and costs, Mr. Carbon indicated that the preliminary estimates provided earlier had identified \$363 million in capital costs, but as they proceeded through the 2A analysis they identified additional costs. The costs are now \$400-\$460 million and Mr. Carbon discussed how it compared to other alternatives. He then discussed the sensitivity analysis that was completed as part of the study, which looked in part at the timing of projects, and whether there would be excess water available from the construction of the project which would increase the per gallon price. He mentioned that this is the final step of the 2A study to be completed. He mentioned some items that would need to be considered in a 2B study should the Task Force recommend moving forward.

Mayor Cooper asked if there had been any consideration to looking beyond 2030 and if conservation had been considered. Dr. Jurado responded on the source of the numbers being used. Mr. Hanks asked about water being lost to tide and the Ms. Estenoz mentioned the challenge of the lack of storage. She also asked Mr. Carbon if there had been any consideration of wet season demand, which he explained had been considered. There was some discussion about the constraints of using the EAA conveyance with respect to water quality issues. Mr. Rosen asked for a white paper with a summary of the issue for the next Task Force meeting. Ms. Estenoz concluded the discussion on the EAA with a reminder that the District has a lot of issues that involve the EAA, including water quality issues. Vice-Chair Jacobs asked for some clarification regarding the District's direction for projects in the EAA. Chair Estenoz pointed to a map and discussed where properties and potential projects were envisioned, at least from her viewpoint. There was a discussion of phosphorus levels in and around the EAA. There was another discussion of moving water between counties, legal boundaries, and politics. The Chair discussed the three-prong test, specifically mentioning the public interest component. Vice-Chair Jacobs inquired whether the numbers used considered sea level rise. Mr. Perez said that it had not been quantified, but it was recognized as an issue. The Vice-Chair indicated that when recommendations are made, sea level rise should be part of the consideration and how it might affect the water demand numbers. The Chair indicated this may need to be part of the discussion at the next meeting and mentioned "downscaling" using the projections being developed by many sources including the District and Florida Atlantic University, as they look forward. She suggested that realistically the project would need to be a win-win for all parties to proceed, not just for Broward County. There was a discussion of what constitutes a beneficial project and the politics of the region. Deputy Mayor Rosen said he believed that discussions to date have always been about the public good. Mr. Hanks interjected that Lake Worth Lagoon receives an excess of freshwater affecting estuarine conditions in that waterbody and that we are in a position to offer some of that water and this is a regional benefit that should be recognized. The Chair closed the discussion and said it had been a good discussion, but that it was time to move on.

Mr. Bassett then provided a brief oral presentation based on a two-page handout he provided concerning cooling tower options and a cost analysis. He began to discuss some revised per gallon cost estimates for the minimal-bleed systems, indicating a savings of \$4,500 when the

cost of currently imposed impact fees would be eliminated. He recognized additional savings by installing a condensate recovery system and discussed the payback period. Dr. Jurado offered that at the last Technical Team meeting they agreed to look at information and share it to see if there were any objections. She indicated there were no major objections and that the process suggested by Mr. Bassett for moving forward seemed appropriate. The approach would be to proceed at seeking approval at a State level first through amendment to the Florida Building Code, and then at the County level. There was a good discussion of why it should proceed as proposed. It was explained that the same process to make a technical amendment to State code would also have to be done at the local level. Mr. DiPietro, with the Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals, explained that he and his staff concurred with Mr. Bassett's recommendations. Mr. Bassett explained the State process which opens their amendment process in January. He indicated it is about a two year process from start to finish before the change would be put in effect. Chair Estenoz said that it appeared to be worth proceeding along this route. Commissioner Blattner asked if there could be a parallel process for amending State and County codes. There was a question of what the process would be in Broward County and Mr. DiPietro explained the local process. He mentioned that the State process discourages local amendments and that they need to meet a regional need. Mayor Cooper asked what was being done on the State level with green building standards. Mr. Bassett indicated a model code had been developed. Vice-Chair Jacobs emphasized that given the wide difference between counties and the influence of utilities, she felt it would be difficult to get a State amendment passed. She indicated that she would prefer to go with the parallel track, looking at this as a model pilot and emphasized that we could capture a large percentage of our future water needs from proceeding down this path certainly merits proceeding forward. The Chair mentioned that this discussion about a parallel track could be included as a discussion item at next month's Task Force meeting. Mr. Bassett concluded that what made Broward County unique was the impact fee that it currently has for the cooling tower stormwater discharge and that made it an ideal candidate for one of the options proposed.

Chair Estenoz indicated she wanted to move to perspectives on two-day per week watering restrictions. There was a brief off-topic discussion on what constituted regional projects and why some projects are shown on the handout and why others are not. Back on the discussion of two-day watering, Dr. Jurado indicated that copies of the County's draft ordinance were provided on the front table for meeting attendees. She explained the schedule for hearings and adoption. There was a discussion of which restrictions were in effect and in which jurisdictions. Deputy Mayor Rosen asked why we are moving towards restrictions while we are still dumping water. Chair Estenoz then discussed the District's effort, providing a chronology of how the District's currently proposed 3-day per week schedule evolved. Mr. Rosen talked about creating an incentives program for saving water and the Chair explained the District is headed in that direction. Vice-Chair Jacobs discussed the success of the NatureScape Broward program and said the real issue is keeping our freshwater head and that the fact that we are using 50% of our water on irrigation is absurd. The water needs to be conserved. She said flipflopping back and forth between different water schedules over time confuses people and that we have not created an ethic of conservation in Broward County. Mr. Glen Humphrey talked about the input he had received on the issue as Chairman of the Broward County Water Advisory Board Technical Advisory Committee. He indicated that by just adopting the proposed County ordinance across the board would still leave issues with certain utilities related to operation of their systems and potential bacterial contamination from not using water more frequently. The Chair indicated

that there is a variance process in place for utilities with these issues. There was some discussion on which entities are opposed to the two-day watering schedule. Some municipal representatives indicated that they were already on two-day restrictions. The Chair interjected that the whole state is moving to a two-day watering schedule, and explained how the District is approaching its current proposed rule. She mentioned the success achieved by Miami Dade in addressing conservation, and she emphasized that the District does not take that water savings away. Mayor Flansbaum-Talabisco mentioned that by implementing an extensive municipal conservation program in Tamarac, which has yielded 18% savings, they have been able to remove their water rate increase. Vice-Chair Jacobs explained the proposed Broward ordinance, which specifically addresses residential irrigation. Commissioner Blattner mentioned that discussion of showerheads and low flow fixtures doesn't go far enough and that we need to address landscape irrigation. The Chair mentioned the District's efforts in undertaking their 5-year plan and Dr. Jurado mentioned that the County has just completed a model landscape code which the County is willing to share.

The Chair asked if a 3-hour meeting could be accommodated next month, with the last 2 hours being dedicated to development of Task Force recommendations. There were no objections to this suggestion. She said the major issues to be addressed at the next Task Force meeting are water conservation, regional projects and Task Force recommendations.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

## ATTENDANCE

### **Task Force:**

Lisa Aronson, Vice Mayor, City of Coconut Creek  
Charlotte Rodstrom, Commissioner and Vice Mayor, City of Fort Lauderdale  
Kristin Jacobs, Vice Chair and Commissioner, Broward County Board of Commissioners  
Donald Rosen, Deputy Mayor, City of Sunrise  
Allegra Webb Murphy, Vice Mayor, City of Oakland Park  
Douglas Bell, Chair, Central Broward Water Control District Board of Commissioners  
Glen Hanks, Secretary, Coral Springs Improvement District Board of Supervisors  
Jack McCluskey, Commissioner, City of Pembroke Pines  
Richard Blattner, Commissioner, City of Hollywood  
Joe Varsallone, Vice Mayor, City of Margate  
Joy Cooper, Mayor, City of Hallandale Beach  
Beth Flansbaum-Talabisco, Mayor, City of Tamarac  
Richard Kaplan, Mayor, City of Lauderhill  
Shannon Estenoz, Governing Board Member, South Florida Water Management District

### **Technical Team:**

Hank Breitenkam, Director of Utilities, City of Plantation  
Juan Martin Cala, Asst. Director, Dept. of Eng. & Env. Services, City of Lauderhill  
Hector Castor, Director of Utilities, City of Sunrise  
Ray Gagnon, Director of Utilities, City of Tamarac  
Albert Perez, Director of Utilities, City of Hollywood Public

Joe McLaughlin, City of Pembroke Pines  
David Womacks, Director of Public Works, City of Oakland Park  
Julie Leonard, Assistant Utility Service Director, City of Fort Lauderdale  
Alan Garcia, Director, Broward County Water & Wastewater Services  
Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Director, Broward County Nat. Res. Planning & Mgmt. Division  
John Mulliken, Director, SFWMD Water Supply Planning Division  
Neil Buckeridge for Bruce Taylor, Director of Utility Operations, Town of Davie  
Dylan Larson, Builders Association of South Florida  
Steven Bassett, South Florida Chapter U.S. Green Building Council  
Bruce Kay for Linda Brien, Administrator of Water Facilities Program, FDEP

**Other Attendees:**

Keith London, Commissioner, Hallandale Beach  
Albert Carbon, City of Fort Lauderdale Utility Services  
Joe Messina, Antrac Tech  
Richard Reiss, Antrac Tech  
Alejandro Toro, Black & Veatch  
Juan F. Aceituno, CH2MHill  
Karen Brandon, AECOM  
Steve Holmes, Vyridian  
Robert G. Andrews, Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals  
Jim Di Pietro, Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals  
Mark Elsner, SFWMD  
Ed Dion, Nabors, Giblin  
Ed Kent, Parsons  
Glenn Humphrey, MWH  
Todd Hiteshew, Fort Lauderdale  
John Crouse, Broward County Water and Wastewater Services  
Rosemarie C. Fallon, Broward Planning and Redevelopment  
Vicki Morrow, Broward County  
Erin Musgrave, Broward County  
Katie Lelis, Broward County  
Carole Morris, SFWMD  
Jose Lopez, SFWMD  
Michael Owens, Broward County Attorney  
Eric Myers, Broward County Environmental Protection & Growth Mgmt. Department  
Michael Zygnerski, Broward County Nat. Res. Planning & Mgmt. Div  
Toni Edwards, Broward County Nat. Res. Planning & Mgmt. Div  
Rudy Rudolph, Broward County Nat. Res. Planning & Mgmt. Div